

after serving Maine communities as a Postmaster for three decades.

Steve has dedicated his career to public service, serving in the U.S. Air Force before working twenty-two years as a Postmaster in Round Pond, then eight years in Rockport. As a public servant, Steve continuously went above and beyond, greeting each customer with a smile and good cheer.

Steve's retirement today is all the more remarkable because he originally intended to retire in March 2020. But as the world fell into chaos due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Steve made the courageous decision to stay on the job. Even though it meant working long days, a daily two-hour round-trip commute, and risking his safety, Steve refused to abandon his community during the most uncertain days of the pandemic.

It is because of people like Steve that Maine has a reputation for being "the way life should be." Our state is a much better place because of his vital work and his ability to form deep and trusting relationships with the people of Midcoast Maine. As he moves onto his next adventure, I wish him all the best.

REINTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO HUMANITARIAN AND SPORTING LEGEND MUHAMMAD ALI

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, as we mark Black History Month, I am proud to reintroduce legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammad Ali in recognition of his contributions to our nation. I believe it is long past time to recognize an American civil rights activist and sporting legend with Congress' highest honor. Unfortunately, Congress failed to act before The Champ's death in 2016, at the age 74, so I ask my colleagues to join me now in honoring an American hero. Over the course of his illustrious career, Muhammad Ali produced some of our nation's most lasting sports memories. From winning a Gold Medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics, to lighting the Olympic torch at the 1996 Summer Olympics, his influence as an athlete and a humanitarian spanned over fifty years.

Despite having been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in the 1980s, Ali devoted his life to charitable organizations. Ali, and his wife Lonnie, were founding directors of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center and Movement Disorders Clinic in Phoenix, AZ and helped raise over \$50 million for Parkinson's research. In addition to helping families cope with illness, Ali led efforts to provide meals for the hungry and helped countless organizations such as the Make-A-Wish-Foundation and the Special Olympics.

Muhammad Ali's humanitarian efforts went beyond his charitable activities in the United States. In 1990 Muhammad Ali travelled to the Middle East to seek the release of American and British hostages that were being held as human shields in the first Gulf War. After his intervention, 15 hostages were freed. Thanks to his devotion to diplomatic causes and racial harmony, Ali was the recipient of many acco-

lades, including being chosen as a "U.N. Messenger of Peace" in 1998 and receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005 from President Bush.

Through his unyielding dedication to his sport and to struggling populations around the world, Muhammad Ali still serves an example of service and self-sacrifice for generations of Americans. The Congressional Gold Medal is a fitting commemoration of his life and work, for which he is deservedly known as "the Greatest."

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing one of our nation's most lasting and influential figures by signing on to this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING MR. ROBBIN KUDER FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A MINISTER AT NORTHWOODS CHURCH

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Pastor Robbin Kuder, and his wife Gail for their lifelong commitment to service in their community. This month, Pastor Kuder will retire after nearly a half-century of faithfully ministering to the residents of Tallahassee, Florida. It gives me great pleasure to recognize his and his wife Gail's service to Floridians, including the Central Florida community.

Raised in Orlando, the son of a minister, Robbin's commitment to service began in 1971 when he joined the United States Navy, where he served as an Operation Specialist. Following his graduation from FSU School of Music Education, Robbin began serving as worship leader and minister at Northwoods Church. He has served here for 45 years, including 16 years as youth minister.

I first met Robbin as we were young men attending First Baptist Church of Pine Hills, Florida where Robbin's dad Roger, served as music minister. As a newly elected member of the Florida Legislature, while in Tallahassee, I attended then University Heights Baptist Church where Robbin served.

A man of quiet leadership, immense patience and quiet sense of humor, Robbin has devoted his life to sharing his passion for music and the love of Christ with people. When not at church, Robbin could be found cycling, sailing, hunting or fishing—usually joined by his beloved wife Gail, one of his seven children or 16 grandchildren. His adventurous spirit and patience are evident in the numerous cross-state cycling trips he organized and led to give Florida youths an outlet for both athletics and adventure, while blessing churches with musical performances and service projects throughout the trip. Robbin and Gail are excellent examples for adults, parents, and young people for how to live a life of ministry.

It is a privilege to congratulate and applaud Robbin and Gail for a lifetime service that has spanned 5 decades. May their character, life, and efforts inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST WINNER TOBI OJO

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the exemplary work of Tobi Ojo, an 11th grade student at Grassfield High School in Chesapeake, Virginia, and the high school winner of the Black History Month essay contest I hosted earlier this month. Ms. Ojo wrote a powerful essay on Stacey Abrams' groundbreaking electoral successes and the exceptional work of African-American women across our nation. I am inspired by Ms. Ojo's words, and I encourage young people across our country to reflect on what this month means to them.

Since its creation less than 50 years ago, Black History Month has been a time to honor and reflect upon the remarkable achievements of the African-American community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tobi Ojo's exceptional work in celebration of Black History Month.

February is the month to celebrate black history, accomplishments, and excellence. When thinking of historical figures who embody these ideologies, many individuals would mention Martin Luther King Jr. or Rosa Parks. If neither of these historical figures is mentioned most people would say another popular African-American man. Black excellence in terms of African-American women is hardly recognized. One African-American lady who has been currently seen breaking societal expectations is politician and lawyer, Stacey Abrams.

Mrs. Abrams broke history by being the first black woman to be a major party nominee for governor in the United States. She was a former liberal State House leader who wanted to change the historically conservative state of Georgia. Her campaign was centered on "the Georgia of tomorrow." Although she is not currently the governor of Georgia, no woman has ever come close to holding that position. Moreover, there has not been a governor position held by a black individual since the Reconstruction Era.

Stacey Abrams is also a successful graduate from Yale Law School. Outside of politics, Mrs. Abrams runs a small business and is a successful writer. Most of her successful books, such as *Minority Leader: Lead From Outside and Our Time Is Now*, center around her struggles and achievements in her life. These books inspire others like Mrs. Abrams to break societal standards set to hinder black lives in America.

Instead of allowing her race and gender to become a hindrance, Mrs. Abrams continues to strive to make a change in the state of Georgia. Georgia has had a history of black representation in small positions but not in statewide positions. Abrams continues to work to improve black communities in Georgia. One of her top priorities is to see more black women leaders in government positions (*The New York Times* 2021).

Stacey Abrams is also a voting rights activist who fights for Americans to have their voice heard through their votes. After seeing the massive mismanagement of Georgia's 2018 election, she decided to combat this problem. This was one of the reasons why she founded the Fair Fight. The Fair Fight helps educate voters on election reforms and advocate for election reform on various government levels. This organization promotes fair